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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

17 January 1951

OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM

NO. 551-2

SUBJECT: USSR Cultural Broadcasts

1. Although the intelligence yield from educational and entertainment broadcasts is comparatively low, the political bias or overtone of such broadcasts must be taken into account in a comprehensive coverage of propaganda. It is proposed, therefore, that FBIS coverage be expanded to include a limited sample of USSR broadcasts selected from the following types:

- a. Broadcasts for school children
- b. Literary presentations or poetry recitals
- c. Radio skits, sketches, or reading of short plays
- d. Concerts, and incidental music in other programs

2. Since it is not desired to increase bureau T/O's for this purpose, it is necessary that Bureaus select such programs for coverage as can be worked in without considerable increase of workload. The sample must remain relatively constant, however, in order to avoid creating false impressions of changes in the volume of politically slanted entertainment; and it is desired that bureaus report the number of cultural periods weekly which can feasibly be covered, and subsequent changes in their number or selection.

3. Samples of suitable types of summary reporting follow:

a. (Logograph)

Broadcast for Older Children, 30 minutes.

(Editor's Note) Dramatic presentation reviewing Red Army exploits in battle for Stalingrad. Patriotic and martial music interspersed throughout. Ends "Death to the Western invader!"

b. (Logograph)

Radio skit, monologue, 15 minutes.

(Editor's Note) American war veteran decorated in action, unable to find employment after months of fruitless search. Is cynically reminded by employers that his efforts abroad failed to produce prosperity at home as had been anticipated. In desperation, decides to pawn war medal, is

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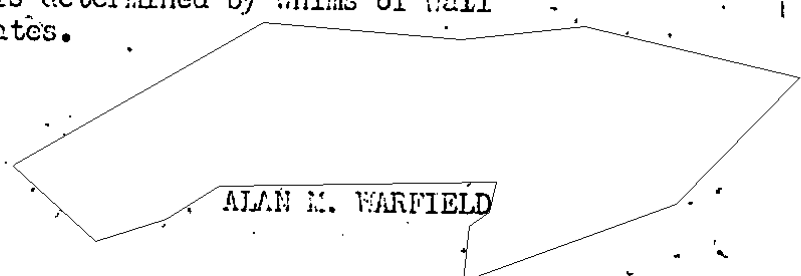
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shocked that \$1.50 is all it will fetch. Plight is depicted as typical of American veterans. Ends with description of the honor and privileges enjoyed by Soviet war veterans.

c. (Logograph)

Sketch, 10 minutes: "Life in a Collective Farm."

(Editor's Note) Main theme is growing prosperity of collective farmers. Occasional contrasts made between secure and abundant life of Soviet farmers and hit-or-miss life of American farmers whose well-being is determined by whims of Wall Street Magnates.



ALAN M. WARFIELD

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DISTRIBUTION: 13

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